

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043131
ORIGIN AF-10

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S:ARTHUR HOUGHTON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043131

E.O. 11652: XGDS - I

TAGS:

SUBJECT:
SECRETARY'S 2/15 CONVERSATION WITH ZAMBIAN FOR-
EIGN MINISTER -- RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, ANGOLA

I. THE SECRETARY ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHETHER
ZAIRE WAS DISCUSSING IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH
ANGOLA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS
SO BUT SAID IT REPRESENTED A DIFFICULT PROBLEM. ZAMBIA
HAD BEEN FAIRLY DEEPLY INVOLVED, HE SAID, AT ALL LEVELS
IN TRYING TO BRING ABOUT STABILIZATION OF THE SIT-
UATION. THE HEADS OF STATE HAD MET, HE SAID, AND A
ZAIROIS DELEGATION HAD BEEN IN ZAMBIA TO DISCUSS BORDER
ISSUES. ZAMBIA HAD SENT A DELEGATION TO ANGOLA AND HAD
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PAGE 02 STATE 043131

RECEIVED A DELEGATION FROM ANGOLA, AND AS A RESULT
THERE HAD BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN ATTITUDES, NOT ONLY
WITH REGARD TO ANGOLAN RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA BUT WITH
ZAIRE. ALSO THE CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA HAD COMPOUNDED THE
DIFFICULT POLITICAL SITUATION BECAUSE ZAIRE STILL
HARBORED FNLA ELEMENTS AND OF COURSE THE ZAIROIS ALSO
SUSPECTED ANGOLAN MOTIVES IN HARBORING EX-KATANGESE

GENDARMES. AS LONG AS THESE SUSPICIONS EXISTED THERE
WOULD BE LITTLE CHANCE OF MUCH IMPROVEMENT IN

ANGOLA - ZAIRE RELATIONS. MWALE ADDED THAT A MEETING
HAD BEEN HELD AMONG ZAMBIAN, ZAIRE AND ANGOLAN
RAILWAY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE MOVEMENT OF STRANDED
GOODS. AS A RESULT ZAMBIA HAD GOTTEN BACK SOME 28
THOUSAND TONS OF STRANDED CARGO.

2. MR. COOPER ASKED WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS WITH THE
BENGUELA RAILWAY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ZAIRE
SAID IT WAS A QUESTION OF PHYSICAL SECURITY, WHILE THE
ANGOLANS SAID IT WAS REALLY A POLITICAL QUESTION.

3. TURNING TO ZAMBIAN RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, THE
FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ZAMBIA'S ORIGINAL POSITION
HAD NOT HELPED THINGS. THEY HAD HAD THEIR DIFFERENCES
WITH ANGOLA, BUT HAD NOW DECIDED THAT THEY SHOULD
RECOGNIZE THE MPLA. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT ZAMBIA
HAD ABANDONED ITS VIEW THAT A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL
UNITY WAS THE ANSWER FOR ANGOLA. AS FOR ZAIRE, ZAMBIA
AND ZAIRE HAD HAD THEIR PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY INVOLV-
ING INTERFERENCE WITH ZAMBIAN TRAFFIC ON THE PEDICLE
ROAD. BUT THE SITUATION NOW HAD IMPROVED SOMEWHAT. VANCE

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